Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068803 ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:MCHESHES:AG
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S/NM:RNICHOLSON (DRAFT)
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P 282301Z MAR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: HELICOL CONTRACT

REFERENCE: BOGOTA 2192

1. THE DEPARTMENT AGREES TO A DIRECT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GOC AND HELICOL FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE HELICOPTERS. SINCE THE PROAG SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR A CONTRACT BETWEEN HELICOL AND THE USG, IT WILL HAVE TO BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE INSURANCE COSTS, DOLLARS 44,000 PER YEAR, ARE SLIGHT IN COMPARISON TO OUR TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE COLOMBIAN PROGRAM. HOWEVER, SINCE USG FINANCING OF INSURANCE FOR A NON-USG OPERATION WOULD REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM U.S. POLICY? WILL YOU EXPLORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER WITH THE COLOMBIANS THE QUESTION OF INSURANCE? YOU MIGHT SUGGEST FINDING ANOTHER NON-USG SUPPORTED ITEM IN THEIR NARCOTICS BUDGET ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO THE INSURANCE COST WHICH WE CAN FINANCE INSTEAD OF THE INSURANCE.

2. THE REVISION OF THE PROJECT AGREEMENT MUST PROVIDE FOR USG APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACT PRIOR TO ITS

EXECUTION. WITHOUT REGARD TO THE FINANCING OF THE INSURANCE, THE AGREEMENT MUST HOLD THE USG AND ITS AGENTS HARMLESS.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE FOREGOING WITH THE GOC AND TO SHOW OUR DESIRE TO KEEP THE PROGRAMS MOVING, EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT THAT OTHER PIPELINE ITEMS ARE GOING FORWARD. DETAILS OF STATUS OF PIPELINE ITEMS CAN BE FOUND IN FEBRUARY 25 COMMODITY PROCUREMENT STATUS REPORT WHICH WAS POUCHED TO A.I.D. MISSION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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